

FROM THE RANCH TO THE BULLRING

(From "Les Taureaux, fête espagnole" by Jacques Leonard.
Illustrations by Joseph Granyer. BARN Publishing House.)



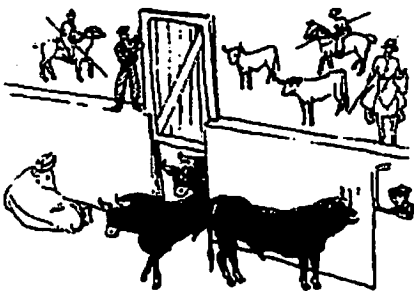
1 Youthful, happy years. Amid the peace of the pasture grounds would-be bullfighters start their apprenticeship.



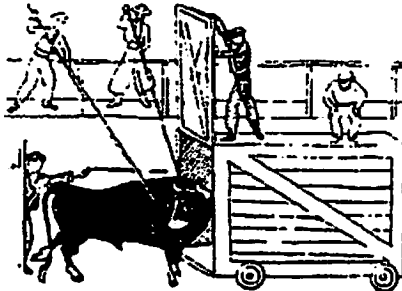
2 Before the animals are one year old they are branded on the ear and given a number and the mark of the brand of the ranch, stamped with a red-hot iron on the sides and hind parts of the body.



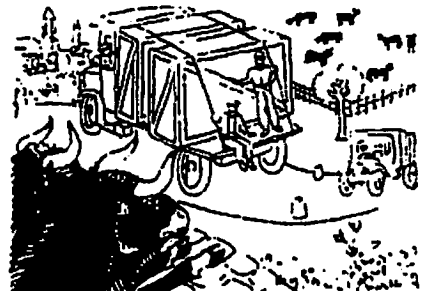
3 Herdsmen armed with goad sticks and galloping on horseback compel the animals to ride in order to test their aggressiveness.



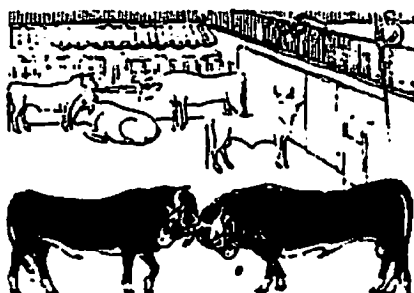
4 Three years after birth (young bulls) and four to six (bulls) the horned beasts are withdrawn from the pastures and put in the enclosures, where they are separated in lots made up of six bulls. Each drove is destined for a bullfight.



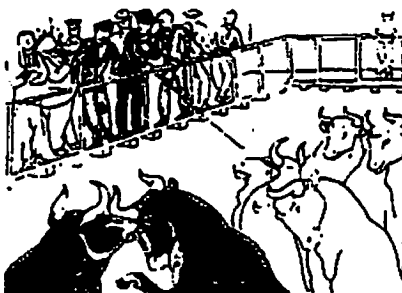
5 Bulls are sent to the ring in special boxes provided with a trap.



6 Transportation takes place either by rail or by road.



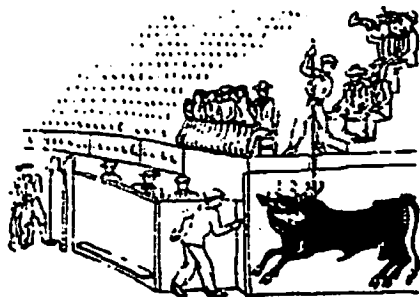
7 Once each lot has arrived at a bullring it is enclosed in a special patio (chiquero). These patios are surrounded by balustrades and the traps are handled from afar in order to avoid any accident.



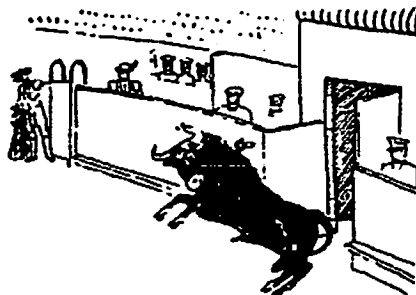
8 Some hours before the bullfight the veterinarians grant the permission for it, and managers divide the lots into three equitable couples according to the weight, power and horns of the animals. This operation is called "splitting" (apartado).



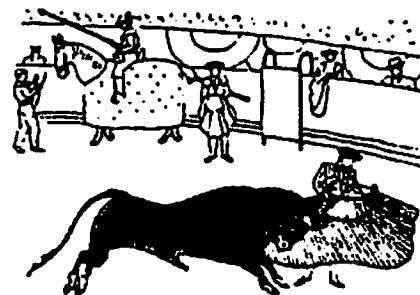
9 Bulls so paired are then assigned to each one of the bullfighters by drawing lots.



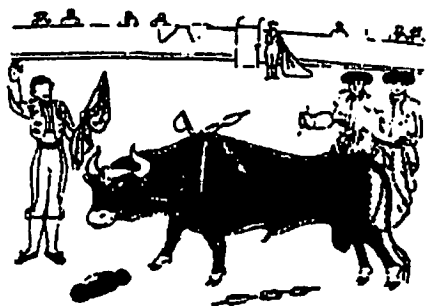
10 Before the bull enters the arena a ring attendant, by means of a pole, sticks in the nape of the beast's neck the emblem, a badge with the colors of the cattle ranch.



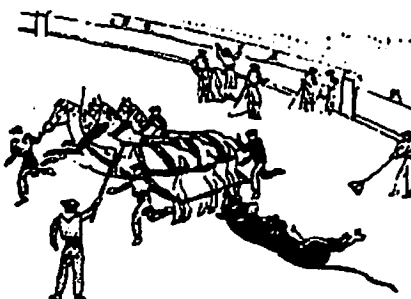
11 The door to the bull pen is opened... The bull rushes forward to the fight.



12 But the bullring is filled with adversaries. Capes that whirl, pikes that weaken its impetus: the bullfight has begun.



13 The bullfight ends with the mortal sword-thrust.



14 The mules drag the dead bull out of the ring.



15 After having been quartered in the bullring's skinning room, the meat of the animal is either sold in the markets or donated to the hospitals the following day.